

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

## Virginia Tech Shooting SITUATION REPORT #6 (Final Report) 1230 Hours 27 April 2007

*New information is in bold italics.*

### SUMMARY

An early morning shooting occurred on the campus of Virginia Tech, beginning at approximately 0730 hours 16 April, 2007 resulting in 33 fatalities and 29 injuries. The gunman, identified as Cho Seung-hui, a 23-year-old English major from South Korea, is among the dead. The shootings occurred in Ambler Johnston Hall and Norris Hall. The investigation continues on campus with the main emphasis on the healing and recovery process for all those affected by this tragic incident and for those who assisted in the response.

### WEATHER FORECAST

**Blacksburg Area:** *Today: Slight chance of showers, partly cloudy with high of 72 degrees with 20% chance of rain.  
Tonight: Partly cloudy with a high near 67. West winds 7-14 mph.*

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**State of Emergency:** At 1650 hours 16 April, Governor Timothy Kaine declared a State of Emergency due to the VA Tech Shooting.

**EOC Activation:** Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) is at Normal Operations, providing assistance to local and state agencies as requested. The VEOC continues to be in contact with VA Tech emergency staff.

**Protective Actions:** Local Emergency Declared:  
Montgomery County – 16 April at 1402 hours.  
***VA Tech – 23 April***

EOC Activations:  
Montgomery County – Closed at 1900 hours, 26 April.  
VA Tech – 18 April 1400 hours.

### OPERATIONS SECTION

#### State Warning Point

Normal Operations, monitoring situation

#### Local Liaison

The VA Tech Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) became operational on 18 April at 1500 hours and was staffed by the following locally defined support functions: Mental Health, Funerals, Transportation, Medical Expenses, Family Liaison, Employee Relations, Community Liaison, Communications, Volunteers and Donations and Family Follow Up. DCJS staff is on scene working the victim witness program.

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*Montgomery County Emergency Services Coordinator responded to the incident and coordinated with VA Tech, local, and state fire, EMS, and law enforcement to assist the VA Tech authorities. At the request of Neal Turner on 18 April, VDEM Regional Hazmat Officers (RHMOs), Tommy Crozier and Wade Collins responded on 19 April and 20 April to assist with cleanup of biohazard materials. In coordination with the VA Tech Building Management and VDH, both affected buildings (Ambler Johnston Hall and Norris Hall) received actual cleanup beginning on 24 April with a hazmat cleanup contractor, WEL, providing lead cleanup operations. VDEM RHMOs served as safety officers and also assisted VSP with evidence collection. VDEM RHMOs will be on site through Friday, 27 April. VDEM Regional Coordinators, Stan Crigger and Joe Coyle, will be available for on site coordination/meetings as required, providing direct assistance as needed.*

**Request For Assistance\***

**Status**

None

*\*Completed Requests are located in previous Situation Reports*

## EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

### ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services

*VA Department of Health (VDH) – New River Health District provided Center for Disease Control Guidelines for medical clean up. VDH coordinated behavioral health support with DMHMRSAS and developing follow up actions. VDH Division of Injury and Violence developed new Web page on responding to and preventing school violence, “School Associated Injury and Violence Prevention” can be accessed through the VDH homepage, [www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov). All victims’ remains were claimed and VDH Office of Chief Medical Examiner and staff demobilized on Thursday, 19 April. Three victims remain hospitalized; one in serious condition at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital and two in stable condition at Montgomery Regional Hospital. VDH is coordinating an After Action/Lesson Learned Report with various VDH Divisions/Offices and state agencies. Information for the report is due to VDH by 11 May.*

*The Chief Medical Examiner deployed a 10 person team to reinforce the Southwest Regional OCME Office for the purpose of identifying, examining and repatriating the remains of all the deceased in this tragic event. All remains were received by OCME by midday Tuesday 17 April. All remains were positively identified in coordination with Virginia State Police and the Fingerprints Division of the Department of Forensic Science and completed late on 19 April. All remains were repatriated (except for the shooter); and the OCME Team redeployed by 20 April. The VDH Public Relations Director deployed two Public Information Officers to reinforce the VDH Southwest Regional Public Information Officer and to support the Medical Examiner, the Joint Information Center, and the Family Services established at VA Tech. The VDH Hospital Coordinator coordinated with the Southwest Regional Hospital Coordinator and the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association to track the transport and condition of all injured victims at Area Hospitals. VDH Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs tracked all VDH response efforts and reported progress to the Secretary of Human Resources and the Virginia Emergency Operations Center. Seven Situation Reports were published.*

### ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security

*Virginia Fusion Center – Monitoring threats*

*Virginia State Police (VSP) – VSP Superintendent, Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, and VA Tech Police Chief Wendell R. Flinchum hosted a final press briefing, Wednesday, 25 April, at the VA Tech Holtzman Alumni Center. The following is a summary of VSP actions:*

- 1. The Virginia State Police continues to provide support and assistance to the Virginia Tech Police Department. Special agents from the Bureau of Criminal Investigation are continuing with the investigation of the shooting incident in Norris Hall and state troopers*

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*are continuing to provide security services in support of the Virginia Tech Police Department at various locations across the Virginia Tech campus.*

- 2. Virginia State Police personnel continue to investigate the shooting and continue to provide support to the Virginia Tech Police Department. Cost estimates for the State Police response to Virginia Tech are not available at this time.*
- 3. The Virginia State Police will bring this criminal investigation to a conclusion after all necessary law enforcement activities have been completed. The State Police will also assist with the security at the Virginia Tech graduation.*

## **HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH**

### **ESF 6 – Mass Care, Housing and Human Services**

*VA Department of Social Services (VDSS) – The Family Assistance Center transitioned to a Campus Assistance Center in the Squires Student Center Ballroom on 20 and 21 April. VDSS demobilized on Friday, 20 April and DCJS took the lead for the week, 22-27 April. These services will continue through Friday, 27 April. At that time an assessment of needs will determine if services will be extended. The ESF6 lead on-site at VA Tech is Mandie Patterson.*

*Two Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) staff remained on campus through April 26. It is anticipated that they will depart by close of business on 26 April. DCJS staff members have worked with Criminal Injury Compensation Fund (CICF) staff and local victim/witness program staff to assist students, injured students, and families of deceased victims. CICF staff departed on 23 April. DCJS staff and local victim/witness program staff were also assigned to Lane Stadium and were deployed to academic buildings to provide mental health support.*

*Staff members have moved to the Squires Student Center to the “Campus Assistance Center” where they have provided assistance on a walk in basis. Increasingly they are receiving contacts from injured victims. On 26 April, ICF claims were filed by injured victims. Other services being provided involve facilitating the return of property which was left in Norris Hall, and coordinating with funeral homes.*

*VDSS staff attended a meeting with university staff, community group representatives, and the liaisons of deceased and injured victims on 25 April to coordinate efforts. Referrals are being made as appropriate.*

*American Red Cross (ARC) – At the request of the University, ARC is providing spiritual care through commencement, providing financial assistance as needed on a case by case basis, working with funeral directors, and assisting with transportation of belongings. ARC Home Chapters will provide services to families as they return to their communities. At the request of the VA Tech Alumni Association, ARC is assisting in the coordination of a Memorial Committee.*

*VA Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) - Two DCJS staff members remained on campus through Thursday, 26 April, coordinating activities at the Campus Assistance Center with staff from the Virginia Workers Compensation Commission Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) and local Victim/Witness program. There was an increase in contacts with victims and assistance was provided to staff, students and families on a walk in basis. DCJS and local Victim/Witness program staff deployed during the week to academic buildings to provide mental health support. The staff at the Campus Assistance Center facilitated the return of property left in Norris Hall and coordinated with funeral homes. Staff attended a meeting with University staff, community group leaders and liaisons of deceased and injured victims on Wednesday, 25 April, to coordinate efforts. CICF staff demobilized on Monday, 23 April.*

*VA Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS) – Preparing Disaster Grant Requests and will attend a meeting on 7 May at Roanoke College,*

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*Salem VA, to discuss how Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) groups responded to the incident and what remains to be done.*

*DMHMRSAS has continued to provide behavioral health support on the Virginia tech campus and the Blacksburg area. The return of students last Monday, 23 April, increased the need for this support. Behavioral Health services in conjunction with Virginia Tech are being provided by the New River Valley Community Services Board with additional staff brought in from additional community services boards (CSBs). The additional CSBs working with New River are Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare from Roanoke, Central Virginia Community Services from Lynchburg, Mt. Rogers Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services from Wytheville, and Cumberland Mountain Community Services Board from Cedar Bluff. Additional behavioral health assets were prepared to deploy from the Richmond area but have not been needed so far.*

*DMHMRSAS is developing a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Emergency Surge Grant to assist with long term recovery across the Commonwealth. DMHMRSAS is consulting with Virginia Tech and the Virginia Department of Health on this effort.*

*DMHMRSAS has contacted and consulted with the Colorado Department of Mental Health (Columbine) and the University of Oklahoma (trauma experts) in developing plans for the behavioral health effort.*

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) for first responders was provided by: VSP CISM peers (20), Fairfax County Police CISM peers (4) and NC CISM peers (4). New River Valley Community Services Board staff and counselors continue to support the Family Service Center. The Blue Ridge Behavioral Health Authority working with the Red Cross established support services at the Roanoke Airport and the Marriott Hotel in the City of Roanoke for family members. University staff was assigned to support families throughout this process. As such future contacts for services will be coordinated with the family representatives. Agencies providing services through the FAC will assess the need for continued services and will remain available as long as required. Counseling services, under the lead of the New River Valley Community Services Board, relocated from the Inn to the Squires Center last weekend. 2-1-1 VIRGINIA is working with the New River Valley Ministerial Association and developing a process by which to make counselors available over the next 30 days. The VT Remembrance Fund for Student Safety has been established to receive and administer contributions that will provide support for the Virginia Tech community in the near term and will support efforts to make Virginia's campuses safer in the longer term. Support to the VA Tech community will help the University and local charitable organizations respond to the needs of those who were affected by the campus tragedy of April 16, 2007. Longer term, the Fund will support efforts within the Commonwealth to make our academic campuses safer through means including but not limited to security enhancements, planning, safety education and training, and counseling. The Fund may also support response efforts to future incidents of campus violence. Similar funds are being established at community foundations in Roanoke and Christiansburg. The Foundation for Roanoke Valley announced that an anonymous donor made a gift to create the School Violence Assistance Fund. Similarly, the Community Foundation of the New River Valley is in the process of establishing the 4-16-07 Fund.

## **LOGISTICS SECTION**

**ESF 7 - Resource Management** – No resource requests currently pending.

## **PLANNING SECTION**

### **ESF-5: Emergency Management**

**VDEM Region 4 Coordinator – Coordinator Joe Coyle met with VA Tech Emergency Planner on Monday, 23 April, and discussed chronology of event and attended VA Tech EOC meeting and passed on request from Criminal Injury Compensation Fund representatives to have VA Tech**

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*assist in distributing information to students and families. Completed all follow up activities and departed campus on Monday, 23 April.*

**Planning Section** – Prepared and distributed Situation Reports. ***This will be the last Situation Report issued reference this event.***

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**ESF 15 – Joint Information Center** – Joint Information Center (JIC) was fully operational from 0800 to 1700 hours with PIO representatives from VA Tech, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia State Police (VSP), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), VA Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) and American Red Cross. ***The JIC was closed on Friday, 20 April and transitioned to a public affairs cell with VSP, VDOT, and MME PIO officers assisting through Sunday, 22 April.***

## LOCAL ACTIVITIES

VA Tech has contracted with Cook Counseling to assist students with addressing the incident. The VA Tech Call Center Toll Free # is 800-533-1144. The Call Center hours of operation are 0800 to 1800 hours. The Inn at Virginia Tech is providing support services to family members. The Squire Student Center is providing support services to students.

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